

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above application be reconsidered, as amended. Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-25 are currently pending.

A. Response to Objection to Claims 5-8 and 16-19

At page 4, of the Office Action, Claims 5-8 and 16-19 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Responsive to this objection, Claim 1 has been amended to include the language of Claim 2 (now cancelled) and the language of Claim 5 that the optional second metal oxide (yttria, calcia, ceria, scandia, magnesia, india and mixtures) is in an amount of about 0.1 mole % or less. The dependency of Claim 5 has been changed accordingly to amended and allowable Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 5-8, as is or as amended, should now be in condition for allowance.

Responsive to this objection, Claim 9 has been amended to include the language of Claim 13 (now cancelled) and the language of Claim 16 that the optional second metal oxide (yttria, calcia, ceria, scandia, magnesia, india and mixtures) is in an amount of about 0.1 mole % or less. The dependency of Claims 14-19 have been changed accordingly to amended and allowable Claim 9. Accordingly, Claims 9 and 14-19, as is or as amended, should now be in condition for allowance.

B. Response to Rejections of Claims 1-4, 9, 23 and 25 under 35 USC 102(3) as Anticipated by, or Alternatively under 35 USC 103(a) as Unpatentable over, Zhu et al.

At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 9, 23 and 25 have again been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by U.S Patent 6,812,176 (Zhu et al.). Alternatively, at pages 3-4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-9, 23 and 25 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Zhu et al.

For reasons previously presented in Applicants' prior response of July 7, 2005, Claims 1-4, 9, 23 and 25, without amendment, are unobvious over Zhu et al. However, to

facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the above application, Applicants have: (1) amended Claim 1 to include the language of Claim 2 (now cancelled) and the language of Claim 5 that the optional second metal oxide (yttria, calcia, ceria, scandia, magnesia, india and mixtures) is in an amount of about 0.1 mole % or less; (2) amended Claims 3-4 to depend from amended and allowable Claim 1; (3) amended Claim 9 to include the language of Claim 13 (now cancelled) and the language of Claim 16 that the optional second metal oxide (yttria, calcia, ceria, scandia, magnesia, india and mixtures) is in an amount of about 0.1 mole % or less; and (4) amended Claim 23 similarly to amended Claim 9. Nonetheless, Applicants still reserve the right, without disclaimer or prejudice, to pursue the subject matter of unamended Claims 1, 9 and 23, as well as cancelled Claims 2 and 13, in a subsequent continuation application.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-4, 9, 23 and 25, as is or as amended, are now allowable over Zhu et al.

C. Response to Rejection of Claims 10-22 and 24 under 35 USC 103(a) as Unpatentable over Zhu et al, in view of Rickerby et al.

At page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 10-15, 20-22 and 24 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Zhu et al., in view of U.S. Patent 6,025,078 (Rickerby et al.). The Office Action appears to rely on Rickerby et al. to further teach metal substrates and multiple types of bond coatings that may be used to improve the adhesion of the zirconia coating to the underlying substrates.

For reasons previously presented in Applicants' prior response of July 7, 2005, Claims 10-15, 20-22 and 24, without amendment, are unobvious over Zhu et al. However, Claims 10-15 and 20-22 now ultimately depend from amended and allowable Claim 9, and Claim 24 now depends from amended and allowable Claim 23.

Accordingly, Claims 10-15, 20-22 and 24, as is or as amended, are now allowable over Zhu et al., even in view of Rickerby et al.

D. Conclusion

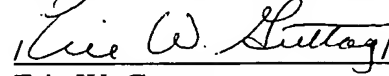
In conclusion, Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-25, as is or as amended, are novel and

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unobvious over the prior art relied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-25, as is or as amended, be allowed to issue in the above application.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric W. Gutttag", written over a horizontal line.

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November 25, 2005